

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 001523

SIPDIS

RSO FOR DS/DSS/ITA AND DS/ICI/PII

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2013

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: SOURCE REPORT FROM MALDIVES

Classified By: RSO ALEX MOORE, REASON: 1.5(C)

1. (C) On 09/02/2003, RSO Colombo received a letter dated 08/13/2003 and addressed to the RSO from an unknown Source who identified himself as Tuan Preena Rashid SALIM, Helengeli Tourist Village, North Male Atoll, Republic of Maldives. The essential text of the letter, written in poor English, is as follows:

2. (C) Sir - As a Sri Lankan for me the U.S. Embassy Colombo is the suitable place to give this information. I have already informed your former RSO about a group having connection with Al-Quaida. In the first week of last month I was able to find the same group and I came to know that they are working for Al-Quaida. The group was all ways traveling to a ship several times a day. Any ways I was able to follow them and get into the ship and I came to know the last trip it has ?Seale? from North Korea. On the way it has stop at Surabaya Port, Indonesia. In the ship the main cargo area was with heavy caliber weapons. According to my knowledge there was plenty of North Korean-made missiles and RPGs and a Czech-made "Malti Baral Rocket Launcher vehicle" was removed into parts. This was on the 6th of July afternoon between 3 to 4 pm. A passenger boat came to the ship (Register no. was 07-6444-10-T). There was four visitors to the ship as I hear they were from Iran. After they came within 15 minutes another boat came to the ship (Reg. no. 07802410T). Four persons were in that boat as I know two was from Korea and one from India and one person was from Pakistan and all of them went to the main cargo area. Then one of the Koreans were explaining about the weapons to four Iranians. After that the Indian was explaining about the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and the VOA radio station in Iranawila Sri Lanka. With a map.

I left from the ship at about 6:30 pm before that I was able to know that the ship has come to Male from North Korea. On the way it has stop for two days in Surabaya port Indonesia. As I know the full shipment sapos (supposed?) to be transferred to another ship on the 8th of July. I want to follow that but they have (?Sanly diside?) and was transferred to two ships on the 6th after midnight. The register no. of the ship with weapons was (blank) and the holding company is:

01-05 Ship Plaza
Orchid Magu Male 20-02
Maldives

And I know now the ship has been sold to a Sri Lankan Company and the weapons have been transported with two ships from Male, one to Syria and one ship to Sri Lanka. I did not get a clear information about these two ships registry numbers or the shipping company. Sir, as every one I know only USA can control or defeat terrorism. I am working in Maldives but I am from Sri Lanka. So as a Sri Lankan the suitable place to give this information is the U.S. Embassy Colombo, so I did it. Thanks, Salim 08/13/03.

3. (C) RSO comment: An unknown Source calling himself Salim contacted RSO by phone in early August and made reference to information of value, but due to his poor English, the caller was unintelligible. RSO instructed the caller to put the information in writing and send it to the Embassy by fax or mail. The above letter is apparently a result of those instructions. In the phone conversation mentioned above, the caller provided an incomplete phone number (00960-749-068), believed to be in the Maldives. The Source could probably be interviewed with some degree of difficulty, as the Maldives are a collection of small remote islands. POC for this information is RSO Alex Moore (94-1-244-8601).
LUNSTEAD